

Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission

Legislative Office Building

Minutes for December 9, 2010 Meeting

9:00 AM

Members present: Brian Austin, Undersecretary, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management, *Chairperson*; Susan Storey, Chief Public Defender; Kevin Kane, Chief State's Attorney; Leo Arnone, Commissioner, Department of Correction; Robert Farr, Chairman, Board of Pardons and Paroles; John Lahda, Executive Director, Board of Pardons and Paroles; William Carbone, Executive Director, Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division; Patricia Rehmer, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Susan Hamilton, Commissioner, Department of Children and Families; Nancy Kushins, Executive Director, CONNSACS; Lt. Ed Henion, Department of Public Safety; Dan Bannish, Director of Health Services, Department of Correction; Mayor Scott Kaupin; Richard Healy.

Chair Brian Austin convened the meeting to order at 9:15 am. The Commission members introduced themselves. The minutes for the November 10, 2010 meeting were unanimously accepted.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Discussion:

Chair Austin and the OPM CJPPD staff provided an overview of the ***Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission (CJPAC), Draft, Transition report, Version 0.04, December 9, 2010***. The Transition report summarizes the changes and improvements in the criminal justice system as well as challenges and issues going forward into the new administration. The issues and challenges are categorized into six major areas: Criminal Justice System Enhancements, Parole Board Enhancements, Information Technology Projects, Re-Entry Issues, Special Offender Populations and Victim Issues. The report is based on individual reports prepared by the CJPAC member agencies which are included in the Appendix of the document.

Agencies will be provided with an electronic copy of the draft Transition Report with all changes due to OPM on the close of business on Friday, December 10th. The final draft of the report will include a message page from the CJPAC Chair.

The Commission members discussed each section of the report and recommended language and content changes.

Public Member Healy asked BOPP Chairman Farr if all required offender history data was now being transmitted to the Board of Pardon and Parole (BOPP). BOPP Chairman Farr commented that there is a dramatic improvement in cross-agency sharing of offender information. BOPP is now receiving offender history reports from the Police as well as court transcripts and other offender documents. However, the Board will still lack complete offender history information on offenders incarcerated well before the development of policy and procedures on sharing of offender history.

Attorney Kane noted the dramatic improvement in offender information sharing over the last four-and-a-half years. The prosecutors received federal grant funds to purchase scanner and copier equipment to ensure that transcripts were transmitted to the Board in a more timely way. However, the volume of cases and transcripts continues to be a challenge.

Chair Austin noted that the two greatest challenges for the criminal justice reform are modern information technology and siting of community based corrections centers.

Director Carbone stated that the Judicial Branch has an electronic bridge open to Judicial, Pardons and Paroles and Correction. It is also open to state and local police and federal law enforcement agencies. The major users have become local police departments. The system provides updates on bond status, probation conditions and violations.

Working Sub-group Updates:

Al Bidorini, Director of Planning, Mental Health and Addiction Services, presented an update on the initiative to link behavioral health and criminal justice records. The project will be delivered through the steering committee made up of Correction, Judicial Support Services, Pardons and Paroles, Mental Health and Addiction Services and the OPM Criminal Justice Research Unit.

Leo Arnone, Commissioner, Department of Correction reported that the inmate count is 233 lower than previous year and the pre-trial population 300 lower than in September 2010. The decrease is probably due to the CSSD Jail Re-interview Program.

The Prison and Jail Overcrowding Re-Entry Working Group met on December 1st, to review the collaborative projects including recommendations in the Statewide Re-entry report and discuss assessment strategies.

The draft Re-entry report will be presented at the February 10 CJPAC meeting.

Dr. Michael Norko of the Behavioral Health Services Sub-Committee reported that the sub-committee is in the homestretch on the "release of information memorandum". The objective of this initiative is to develop standards across agencies for the release of client information.

Other Business

Commissioner Hamilton of the Department of Children and Families made her formal announcement of resignation to the committee with the date of January 4, 2011. She thanked all the committee members.

Chairman Austin thanked her for all her hard work.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.

The next CJPAC meeting is February 10, 2011.

